

**EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:  
27.11.2002 Bulletin 2002/48

(51) Int Cl.7: **H04N 5/00**

(43) Date of publication A2:  
17.01.2001 Bulletin 2001/03

(21) Application number: **00114189.4**

(22) Date of filing: **13.07.2000**

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU  
MC NL PT SE**  
Designated Extension States:  
**AL LT LV MK RO SI**

(71) Applicant: **NEC CORPORATION**  
**Tokyo (JP)**

(72) Inventor: **Hane, Hidetaka**  
**Minato-ku, Tokyo (JP)**

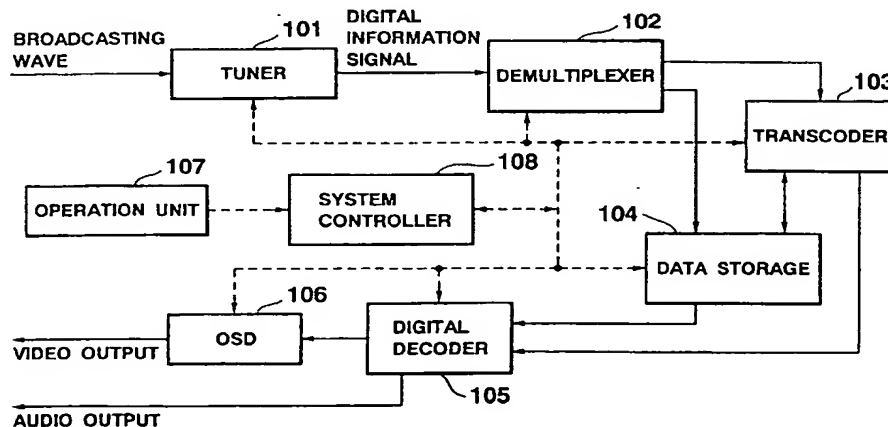
(30) Priority: **16.07.1999 JP 20300899**

(74) Representative: **VOSSIUS & PARTNER**  
**Siebertstrasse 4**  
**81675 München (DE)**

(54) **Image quality confirmation apparatus and method, and recording medium recording program therefor**

(57) An image quality confirmation apparatus includes a random accessible stream recording medium, transcoder, decoder, image quality presentation unit, and operation unit. The random accessible stream recording medium stores a digital stream. The transcoder recompresses the digital stream with a predetermined compression parameter to generate a new digital stream. The decoder expands the new digital stream generated by the transcoder to decode it into video and audio signals. The image quality presentation unit presents the image quality of the new digital stream to the user. The operation unit causes the user to select a

desired image quality based on the image quality displayed by the image quality presentation unit. The image quality presentation unit recompresses a designated digital stream with different predetermined compression parameters using the transcoder to generate a plurality of new digital streams, and lays out, plays back, and displays the plurality of new digital streams and the digital stream before recompression on a screen using the decoder to cause the user to select a desired image quality with the operation unit. An image quality confirmation method and recording medium are also disclosed.

**FIG. 1**



European Patent  
Office

# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 11 4189

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 5 821 997 A (KAWAMURA KOICHIRO ET AL) 13 October 1998 (1998-10-13)	1,5,8	H04N5/00
Y	* abstract *	2-4,6,7,9-11	
	* column 1, line 61 - column 2, line 13 *		
	* column 2, line 48 - line 51 *		
	* column 2, line 66 - column 3, line 6 *		
	* column 3, line 15 - line 18 *		
	* column 3, line 43 - line 67 *		
	* column 4, line 7 - line 18 *		
	* column 4, line 48 - line 62 *		
	* column 5, line 7 - line 20 *		
	* claims 1-3,5-7,13-18,21,22,24 *		
	* figure 5 *		
X	--- DARIM VISION CO., LTD.: "VideoOffice - User's Guide" VIDEOOFFICE - USER'S GUIDE, [Online] - 6 July 1999 (1999-07-06) pages 1-78, XP002215224 Retrieved from the Internet: <URL:http://www.darvision.com/ftp/videooffice/vo5ug.pdf> [retrieved on 2002-09-27]	12,14,16-20,22,23,25,27-31,33,34,36,38-42,44	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
Y	* paragraphs [06.1],[06.2],[7.1.2.2],[7.1.2.3],[7.1.4],[07.2],[08.1] *	6,7,11,13,15,24,26,35,37	H04N G06F
Y	--- US 5 633 683 A (ROSENGREN JUERGEN F ET AL) 27 May 1997 (1997-05-27)	2-4,9,10,13,15,24,26,35,37	
A	* abstract *	14,25,36	
	* column 1, line 29 - line 45 *		
	* column 1, line 66 - column 2, line 9 *		
	* column 2, line 34 - line 44 *		
	* column 4, line 31 - line 43 *		
	--- -/--		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>30 September 2002</b>	Examiner <b>Beaudet, J-P</b>
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons 8 : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P4/C01)



European Patent  
Office

# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 11 4189

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1998, no. 10, 31 August 1998 (1998-08-31) & JP 10 117346 A (XING:KK;BROTHER IND LTD), 6 May 1998 (1998-05-06) * abstract * -----	6,7, 20-22, 31-33, 42-44	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		30 September 2002	Beaudet, J-P
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P4C01)

# ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 00 11 4189

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

30-09-2002

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5821997	A	13-10-1998	JP 6098288 A	08-04-1994
US 5633683	A	27-05-1997	AT 188826 T	15-01-2000
			AT 207268 T	15-11-2001
			AU 686355 B2	05-02-1998
			AU 2082195 A	10-11-1995
			AU 700272 B2	24-12-1998
			AU 2082295 A	10-11-1995
			BR 9507363 A	18-11-1997
			CA 2187796 A1	26-10-1995
			CN 1149953 A	14-05-1997
			CN 1149950 A ,B	14-05-1997
			DE 69514508 D1	17-02-2000
			DE 69514508 T2	20-07-2000
			DE 69523321 D1	22-11-2001
			DE 69523321 T2	04-07-2002
			DK 755604 T3	13-06-2000
			EP 0755604 A1	29-01-1997
			EP 0775413 A2	28-05-1997
			EP 0964576 A1	15-12-1999
			ES 2143622 T3	16-05-2000
			ES 2165417 T3	16-03-2002
			GR 3033116 T3	31-08-2000
			WO 9528794 A2	26-10-1995
			WO 9528795 A2	26-10-1995
			JP 9512147 T	02-12-1997
			JP 9512148 T	02-12-1997
			PT 755604 T	30-06-2000
			US 6041068 A	21-03-2000
JP 10117346	A	06-05-1998	NONE	

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82